

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OC-06 CCO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07  
L-03 ACDA-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02  
USIA-06 TRSE-00 /065 W  
-----040526 221130Z /10

R 221051Z JUN 77  
FM USMISSION NATO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4359  
SECDEF WASHDC  
INFO JCS WASHDC  
DA WASHDC  
DIR TRI-TAC FT MONMOUTH NJ

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 NATO 05800

NOFORN

SECDEF FOR ASD(C3I), ASD(ISA); DA FOR MGEN RIENZI

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: NATO,ETEL, MARR  
SUBJECT: INTEROPERABILITY OF TACTICAL AREA COMMUNICATIONS

REF: (A) USNATO 5475 DTG 161911Z JUN 77, (B) STATE  
136971 DTG 140129Z JUN 77

SUMMARY: IN DISCUSSIONS WITH UK AND FRG NADREPS WE HAVE  
LEARNED THAT THE UK DOES NOT FAVOR ANY INITIATIVE WHICH  
WOULD SLOW DOWN OR ADVERSELY AFFECT CONTRACTS WITH PTARMIGAN  
PROGRAM. THEY BELIEVE PTARMIGAN SATISFIES A CRITICAL NEED  
CAUSED BY CANCELLATION BY THE US OF MALLARD. THEY DO NOT  
SUPPORT COMMON FUNDING TO ACHIEVE EARLY INTEROPERABILITY.  
THE FRG MOD ARE STILL UNINFORMED OF THE US PROPOSAL BELOW  
MINISTERIAL LEVEL. THE FRG DELEGATION DOES NOT UNDERSTAND  
WHY US RAISED THE ISSUE OR HOW IT CAN CHANGE CURRENT  
NATIONAL POSITIONS. UK REP TO THE TRI-SERVICE GROUP ON  
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COMMUNICATIONS AND ELECTRONICS EQUIPMENT (TSGCEE) IS WILL-  
ING TO MEET WITH THE US REP PRIOR TO THE TSGCEE MEETING TO  
DISCUSS THE MATTER FURTHER. WE FAVOR SUCH A MEETING.  
REQUEST WASHINGTON GUIDANCE. END SUMMARY.

1. US NADREP (HARVILL) ACCOMPANIED BY US MISSION MEMBER  
(SOOS) MET WITH THE UK NADREP (PERRY) AT MISSION REQUEST

ON 15 JUNE TO DISCUSS SUBJECT ABOVE.

2. THE UK REP PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON THE UK'S VIEWS CONCERNING THE SECDEF INITIATIVE. (FYI: WE BELIEVE THAT PERRY WAS REFLECTING THE VIEWS OF THE UK COMMUNICATIONS COMMUNITY, BUT WE DO NOT KNOW IF THIS POSITION HAS BECOME THE OFFICIAL UK GOVERNMENT POSITION. END FYI.)

A. THE UK IS NOT RECEPTIVE TO ANY PROPOSAL THAT WOULD DELAY THE IMPLEMENTATION AND FIELDING OF PTARMIGAN, INCLUDING DISRUPTIONS ON CURRENT CONTRACTUAL EFFORTS.

B. THE UK VIEWS EARLY FIELDING OF PTARMIGAN AS NECESSARY TO MEET A REQUIREMENT WHICH IS NOW CRITICAL DUE TO DELAYS CAUSED BY THE US CANCELLATION OF THE MALLARD PROJECT.

C. THE UK HAS NO DESIRE TO CONTRIBUTE VIA COMMON FUNDING TO HELP MODIFY EQUIPMENT OF OTHER NATIONS. FURTHER, THEY DON'T BELIEVE OTHER EUROPEAN NATIONS, ESPECIALLY FRANCE, BELGIUM, AND GERMANY, WILL BE ANXIOUS TO DO SO EITHER.

D. THEY BELIEVE THE UK IS IN A GOOD POSITION SINCE PTARMIGAN MEETS ALL THE EUROCOM STANDARDS.

E. THEY ARE PARTICULARLY UNHAPPY ABOUT THE REFERENCE TO NICSMA IN THE SECDEF INITIATIVE. IN THE UK VIEW, NICSMA HAS CONFIDENTIAL

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ENOUGH PROBLEMS IN DESIGNING AND IMPLEMENTING THE NICS, AND WOULD NOT BE CAPABLE OF HANDLING THE ADDITIONAL TASK.

F. THE UK REP ALSO EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT HIS AUTHORITIES FAVORED DISCUSSION OF THE SECDEF INITIATIVE AMONG THE BIG FOUR, OR THE "PRODUCING NATIONS" AS ASYG (DEFENSE SUPPORT) LABERGE HAD SUGGESTED, RATHER THAN DEAL WITH THE SUBJECT IN THE TSGCEE.

3. ON 16 JUNE, THE UK NADREP INFORMED THE MISSION THAT THE UK REP TO THE TSGCEE (BRIGADIER J.L. AKASS) WOULD LIKE TO MEET WITH THE US REP (SALTON) ON MON, 27 JUN 77, PRIOR TO THE TSGCEE MEETINGS. WE FAVOR SUCH A MEETING AS A PRELIMINARY TO THE APPROACH SUGGESTED IN REF A.

4. IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION ON 16 JUNE, DEP NADREP (WIELAND) OF FRG REPORTED THAT THEIR MOD WERE STILL UNINFORMED OF THE SECDEF INITIATIVE BELOW MINISTERIAL LEVEL. THE GERMAN DELEGATION IS NOW ATTEMPTING TO INFORM THE APPROPRIATE COMMUNICATIONS PERSONNEL IN THEIR MOD. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT THEY DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHY THE US RESURRECTED THE ISSUE, AND CANNOT FORESEE HOW IT CAN

ACHIEVE A CHANGE IN NATIONAL POSITIONS.

5. COMMENT: A NUMBER OF ALLIED REPS AT WORKING LEVEL HAVE QUESTIONED OR OPPOSED THE US INITIATIVE TO ACCELERATE INTER-OPERABILITY OF TACTICAL AREA COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS. IT APPEARS TO US THAT SUCCESS OF THE US INITIATIVE NOW DEPENDS ON SENIOR ALLIED POLICY OFFICIALS INSTRUCTING THEIR SUB-ORDINATES TO APPROACH THIS INITIATIVE WITH A POSITIVE, CO-OPERATIVE ATTITUDE. THEREFORE, WE RECOMMEND THAT SENIOR US OFFICIALS MAKE THEIR PLANNED BILATERAL CONTACTS WITH THEIR

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4360

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INFO JCS WASHDC

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 NATO 05800

COUNTERPARTS IN THE "PRODUCING NATIONS" (PER REF A, PARA 4) AT AN EARLY DATE TO DEVELOP SUPPORT FOR THE INITIATIVE. WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT THE TSGCEE AND THE NADREPS SHOULD NOT ADDRESS THE POLITICAL ISSUES RELATED TO THIS INITIATIVE. THE TSGCEE (OR A SUBGROUP), HOWEVER, COULD BEGIN TO STUDY THE TECHNICAL IMPLICATIONS. TECHNICAL ASPECTS AND THEIR FINANCIAL IMPACT WOULD BE IMPORTANT INPUT TO NATIONAL DECISIONS ON THE INITIATIVE. END COMMENT.

6. WE SUGGEST THAT THE US REP BE PREPARED (PER PREVIOUS GUIDANCE IN REF B) TO MAKE BILATERAL CONTACTS ON 27 JUNE WITH THE REPS FROM THE PRINCIPAL "PRODUCING NATIONS" TO GAIN SUPPORT FOR THIS APPROACH. WE WILL MAKE APPOINTMENTS FOR THESE MEETINGS IF DIRECTED. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON GUIDANCE BEFORE JUNE 23 IF POSSIBLE. STREATOR

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